

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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ISLAND PARK ASSEMBLY.



PLEASANT week was spent by the pastor and family at the Island Park Assembly during its recent sessions. We are gratified to report such a large attendance and such an excellent programme. The attendance of the Assembly has

changed somewhat from what it was in former years. The immense crowds that frequented this place upon certain days were missing this season, but the average attendance we believe was larger than in former years.

The talent employed this year was of the best. Every day was a round of good things. The musical talent was choice. Prof. Blakeslee, director of the chorus class, has few, if any, who are his equal in this position. Mrs. Blakeslee presided at the piano with matchless skill, while their little daughter, Edna, is indeed a wonder as a violinist. Herr Theodore Martin, of Chicago, always delighted the audience when he appeared upon the platform in his violin solos. His orchestra is also one of the best, and always seemed to be at their best, and were always on hand, either at the Tabernacle or somewhere in the park, rendering some of their choice selections. Madame Abbie Carrington was one of the greatest musical attractions of the Assembly this season. She gave two concerts during her engagement with the assembly. She must be heard in her solos to form any conception of her ability. At the close of Dr. Willit's lecture on Thursday afternoon, on the "Model Wife," by request she sang "Home, Sweet Home." This was one of her grandest efforts, and she completely electrified her immense audience. Arrangements have already been made to have her appear again at the next year's assembly.

The lecture talent, in its field, was equally as choice as the musical. In the afternoon of our first day at the park, Joseph Cook "held the fort" in his lecture, "Ultimate America." We had heard him on this topic on a former occasion, but we never heard him as we

did this afternoon. For two hours and a quarter he held his audience spell-bound, while he dealt his mighty blows right and left, first depicting the possibilities of America, then its threatening perils, assailing like a giant the powers of evil that are appearing upon our national horizon, and imperiling our safety and our prosperity. He dealt the liquor traffic such a blow that the immense audience became almost unmanageable in their applause and amens in favor of his pleas and arguments for prohibition. He gave a graphic demonstration of the manner in which the liquor power is to-day manipulating our municipal authorities, and the two great political parties of our country. The whisky ring uses them at its will. Joseph Cook believes in prohibition, and has no hesitancy in making his politics known.

Among other entertaining lecturers present at the assembly, was the "delightful, incomparable," Dr. Willits. On Wednesday he delivered his lecture on "Sunshine," on Thursday morning a lecture on "Moonshine," and in the afternoon of same day, he gave his lecture on "The Model Wife." Dr. Willits has a very happy way of getting some sunshine into the hearts of his hearers. He is full of sunshine himself. His lecture on the Model Wife was instructive and pleasing. His model wife is the wife depicted by Solomon in the thirty-first chapter of Proverbs. Friday of the week we were at the assembly, was "Grand Army Day." For the first time we were permitted on this day to see and hear a live "Johnny," and we feel now as though we have seen and heard all of those "chaps" we ever care to see or hear. H. H. Gill, an ex-Confederate Colonel delivered an address in the forenoon of this day. He claims to be thoroughly reconstructed, we have no reasons to doubt the facts of his reconstruction. Many of the old soldiers assured us that Col. Gill was a fair representation of the "Johnny." Possessed with an extraordinary amount of tenacity and an unpardonable degree of ignorance, and not much of conscience, these are the ingredients of the average "Johnny." In the afternoon of Friday General Gibson talked to the "Boys in Blue." We have often heard the General upon similar occasions, but

this day he excelled himself. Possibly the fact of coming into such close quarters with a "Johnny" stirred up the fire of patriotism within him. He carried his audience with him at his will into his wonderful flights of oratory, into rounds of applause, into tears, heartaches, headaches, into the roar and thunder of the battle, and then out into the blue, clear sunlit sky of victory and peace. Gen. Gibson never disappoints an audience, and when he is once heard, his audience wants to hear him again.

To do full justice to the programme of the assembly we should speak of many others who appeared upon the platform. The programme was choice from beginning to end. The assembly should have a much larger attendance from the cities of Northern Indiana than it has. Our people are missing rare opportunities of hearing many of the foremost lecturers of the land, by not attending the assembly.

The assembly is now under the best of management. The president and superintendent, Rev. N. B. C. Love, is well adapted for this position. We were pleased to meet the secretary, Rev. L. F. Naftzger, and to find him such a genial and obliging gentleman. He will make many friends. We made many pleasant acquaintances while at the assembly, and met also, many of our old friends, from different parts of Northern Indiana, and especially from Goshen, Indiana. We hope the assembly may continue in its well merited state of prosperity, and may have the support and patronage of our people in the future even to a much larger degree than it has had in the past.

Mr. Riley, who united with Grace Church on anniversary day, in May last, has been very ill for some weeks past. The attending physicians are hopeful of his recovery. This brother is very patient in his afflictions, and resigned to the will of his Master. Our prayer is that he may soon be restored to health again. Go and visit him, on Gay street, No. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. John Vordermark have gone on a trip to eastern cities. They will visit Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other places. The Visitor wishes for them a pleasant tour and a safe return.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - Editor.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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THE NERIAH MISSION.

The pastor was permitted to spend July 16th and 17th with the pastor and people of this mission. This charge is located ten miles north of Toledo, in Monroe County, Mich. This was our first visit to this field. We have had an anxiety for some time, to spend a few days among these people, and make a survey of this field to ascertain for ourselves, what the outlook of this mission might be. We were delighted to find its prospects far more encouraging than we had anticipated. Distance does not always suffice to lend enchantment. The majority report represented Canaan as a land, "that eateth up the inhabitants thereof." The difficulties of some of our missions are sometimes unduly exaggerated. Objects put on a different aspect as they are seen from different angles, and as they are viewed by different eyes. If the Neriah Mission should eventually prove a failure, it will not be for the want of grand opportunities.

The mission is located in the midst of a beautiful and fertile country, and among an intelligent and enterprising people, most of whom have no fixed church home. The mission has one substantial and inviting church building, a parsonage house in an excellent state of repair, and connected with it ten acres of ground. This soil is a rich black loam, and with a little attention will be very productive. It is not expected that the pastor shall devote his time to farming, but this lot will furnish pasture grounds for the parson's horse and cow, with ample room for orchard and garden, giving elbow room for some wholesome out-door exercise. Surely this parsonage makes a most delightful country residence, such as almost any pastor might desire. The mission has also a second organization, which has its place of worship at Morocco, a small railroad town. This congregation has no house of worship, but we believe with careful effort may in the near future have its own house. We were glad to make the acquaintance of nearly all of the members of the mission, and to find them so devoted to the church. Many years ago, the Neriah charge was in a flourishing condition. By the removal of many of the prominent families of the church, and the death of

others, the membership became reduced. Possibly the church has also suffered through the constant interruptions in the pastorate, and through mismanagement in the work of the church. But with all this, the mission has an open door set before it. The services held during our visit to the mission were well attended, and the people were attentive to the preaching of the word of God. On Sabbath morning the Lord's Supper was celebrated, and the pastor installed. We were glad to have with us in these services Rev. Freeman Ware, of Three Rivers, former pastor of the mission. Rev. Mayharter, the present pastor, has been on this work for some more than two years, and has been doing a very substantial and excellent work. We must not fail to speak also of Mrs. Mayharter, who is an earnest and consecrated collaborer with her husband in his work. She has been doing very effectual work in the organization and maintenance of a Women's Missionary Society, and a Children's Mission Band. The pastor and his wife have gained the esteem and confidence of the people in this community, and we hope they may continue their labors in the mission, and we feel confident that in the future they will be fully recompensed for their sacrifices and labors. The members of the Mission should feel it their duty to be as self-denying and earnest as their pastor and his wife, and render them all the assistance possible. We shall hope to hear of the increased prosperity of the Neriah Mission in the future, and that within a few years these churches will have grown to such a strength both in numbers and in spirituality, that the church abroad will feel that its prayers and help in behalf of the mission have not been in vain. We might add also that there are prospects, at present, that the pastor of this mission may be engaged as supply for several congregations of the Dutch Reformed Church located not a great distance from the mission. If such an arrangement can be effected the mission will become self-supporting at once.

The agent of the Reformed Publishing House at Dayton, Ohio, will be with us a few days in the near future. Persons who may be in arrears in their subscriptions for the *Christian World* will have a convenient opportunity of making payments to the agent, thus saving the expense of forwarding amounts to the house.

Miss Lulu Heller is home again after a visit out of the city for a few weeks. Her voice is again heard in our choir. We are glad for her presence at our services.

The Orphans' Home will celebrate its seventh anniversary Wednesday, Aug. 20th. Extensive preparations are being made to make this one of the pleasantest occasions in the history of the Home. Dinners and suppers will be served in the dining apartments of the home for all who may attend the anniversary. The exercises will be held in the afternoon, consisting of singing and a few brief addresses. Rev. Carl Schaff, of Huntington, will deliver an English address. Rev. Schaff is a great favorite among our people, and they will be pleased to hear him. The members of Grace church have been solicited to furnish such provisions as they can for the tables, &c. We hope the attendance may be large at the anniversary, and that the home will be remembered by our people with cheerful and liberal offerings and their presence. The new addition to the home is rapidly reaching its completion and will add very much to the convenience and appearance of the buildings.

You may as well begin now to untie the strings of your purses, for the women will soon be on the war path, to collect the five dollar shares for the parsonage lot. You will always find it to your advantage to have your lamp ready for any emergency. So with the purse. Quite a number of shares have already been paid. Oct. 1st, is the time set for the payment of these subscriptions. The ladies have not yet fully completed their canvas, but they are at it every week. They have had several pleasant surprises lately in the shape of receiving several five dollars offerings from unexpected sources. They will be glad for some more such innovations upon their unexpectant hearts. Let no one entertain the fear that our women can be "scared out" by such treatment. They are equal to all such trying ordeals, just proceed with the surprises.

Mrs. Jacob Rudisil has been absent from our services for several months on account of sickness. We are glad to report that she is slowly improving. We hope she may soon be able again to attend our services.

Miss Clara Pipenbrink has returned from her visit at Somerset, Ohio. She reports a pleasant time. She is again taking her place in the choir and in our Young People's meetings.

Mrs. A. M. Henderson and Maggie Haverly are having an outing at the home of Mr. James Vinings north of the city.

The Misses Anna and Alice Vordermark have returned from their visit, and are both enjoying better health.

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Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening . . 6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening . . 7:30
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VACANT CHAIRS.

He who seldom thinks of Heaven is not likely to get there. The way to hit the mark is to keep the eye fixed upon it.—Bishop Horn.

Mrs. Schnurr, residing six miles west of the city, died July 29, aged 33 years and 1 month. This lady was confirmed and became a member of the Reformed church at about the age of fourteen. The pastor was called to visit her in her illness and administered the Lord's supper to her a short time before her death. The funeral service was held at the house on Thursday, July 31, after which the remains were brought to the Lindenwood cemetery for burial. Her last request was that she might be buried by the Reformed church, the church of her choice. Her aged father, who was with her in her last illness, assured her that her wish should be complied with. Her sufferings are ended. Her longings are consummated, and she has gone to her reward beyond.

Mary Ann Babcock, wife of William H. Babcock, who had been failing in health for several years past, died on the evening of August 1st. She was born in Gilderland, Albany County, N. Y., September 15, 1828. Aged at her death 61 years, 10 months and 16 days. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Babcock occurred April 29th, 1852. This union was blessed with three sons, one of whom died in infancy. The father and two sons remain to mourn the death of a devoted mother. The deceased was a daughter of John and Mary Walker, of this family of four sons and four daughters, she was the last to take her departure to that land from which no pilgrim ever returns.

Tuesday morning July 8th, at the request of this mother we went to her

home, and received her into full membership with Grace Church by the rite of Holy Baptism. For some months past we visited this mother two and three times a week, and we are glad to say that in all her suffering she was patient and relying upon the Lord for support awaiting with christian fortitude the hour of the coming of the her Lord. When at last the moment of her departure came, she fell into a calm and peaceful sleep, and the spirit took its flight into that land, where the weary shall be at rest forever, and where sickness shall come no more.

On Monday afternoon Aug. 4th, the funeral services were held at the home, two miles north of the city. After which the remains were taken to the Lindenwood Cemetery for burial. The pastor was assisted in these services by Rev. Retig, of the Orphans' Home, who was a particular friend of this mother. By these visitations of God's providence we should be admonished of our own frailty, and our need of a title to the mansions above. The Lord means to draw us Heavenward by taking of our treasures to Himself. May the father and sons of this home, dedicate themselves unto the Lord, and devote their time and talent to His blessed service, that they may gain at last an entrance into that home above, where now already the family circle is forming.

Fredie, son of John and Mary Gebert, after a brief illness of a few weeks, departed this life Aug. 9th, aged 13 years and 11 days. The funeral services were conducted by the pastor, Monday afternoon, Aug. 11th, at a church near the home, eight miles east of the city. The family has the sympathy of their friends and neighbors in their bereavement. Of the six children which have blessed this home, the Lord has taken four to Himself. Father and mother, one daughter and one son, remain here, four have passed to the great beyond. One-half of the family circle here, one-half on the other side safe with Jesus. With what intense anxiety the remaining ones here should pray and toil to meet those of the home circle who have gone to the heavenly home, and how they must feel their hearts drawn heavenward. With longing eyes they will look to the hills illumined with the glory of that land where there are no setting suns, and where the dear ones of their home have gone to abide forever.

Mr. and Mrs. Gebert were formerly members of the Grace Church, but for several years past have not attended our services. We hope to see them come and take their places again in the church. They should have a church home here that by and by they may have a home with their children in

heaven. May the Lord comfort their sorrowed hearts and lead them unto a new and full consecration of themselves unto their Savior.

Thursday evening July 24th, at the house of W. H. Riley, on Gay street, Mr. Charles Sheller and Miss Mary Jane Riley, were united in marriage by the pastor. Owing to the illness of Mr. Riley, the father of the bride, only the immediate friends of the family were present to witness the ceremony. Mr. Sheller has been a resident of Fort Wayne for some two years, and is a very pleasant and genial gentleman. We predict for him and his youthful companion a very pleasant and prosperous future. They have the well-wishes of their many friends.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS.

Y. P. S. C. E. for the Months of August and September.

Aug. 19. "The Cost of Being a Christian and the Cost of Not Being a Christian." Luke xiv, 25-33. Eugene Mathes.

Aug. 26. Consecration meeting. "He Took Our Place. The Wonderful Love of Christ." Isaiah iii, 4-6; II. Cor. v, 21. Lillie Walters.

Sept. 2. Missionary. "Philip, the Evangelist. How He Teaches Us to Work." Acts viii, 5-6, 26-40. Edward Miller.

Sept. 9. "Laborers. Our Work; Its Nature, Rules for Success, Rewards." II. Cor. vi, 1-18. A. K. Zartman.

Sept. 16. "What God Does to Show His Love to Sinners." Rom. v, 1-11; I. John iv, 10. Katie Vodermark.

Sept. 23. "Be Patient. What Does the Bible say About Patience?" Col. i, 1-20; James v, 7-12. Mrs. John Vodermark.

Sept. 30. Consecration meeting. "The Ways of Sin." Temperance meeting. Rom. vi, 19-23. Birdie Saffern.

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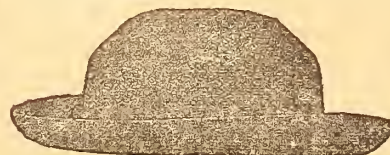
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